

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the present application. The non-final Office Action dated June 4, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, Applicants have amended the claims 9, 12, 16 and 30. Applicants have also amended FIGs. 10C and 10D to correct minor typographical errors, as indicated in red in the annotated sheet showing changes. Claims 1-36 are pending. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are requested.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "130b" has been used to designate both the left-most common electrode and the next-to-left-most common electrode. Applicants have amended FIGs 10C and 10D to add reference character "130a" to correct the typographical errors in FIGs. 10C and 10D. Accordingly, the objection is overcome.

Figures 1-7D are objected to because the Office Action alleges that a "Prior Art" legend should be added. Applicants submit that the current "Related Art" legend in FIGs. 1-7D accurately represents the subject matter depicted in these figures. Further, Applicants make no admission as to prior art. Accordingly, the objection is overcome.

In the Office Action the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the drawings are objected to because the common line being on the first insulation layer is not shown in the figures. Applicants have amended the claims; thus, no drawing change is necessary. Accordingly, the objection is overcome.

In the Office Action, claims 30-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement and the written description requirements. Applicants have amended claim 30 to recite the features depicted in FIGs. 8-10D. As such,

independent claim 30 and its dependent claims 31-36 are in conformance with § 112. Further, Applicants respectfully submit there has been no attempt by Applicants to conceal the best mode from the present application. Applicants have disclosed the best mode in the originally filed specification. The recitation of the common line being on the first insulation layer was in error and has been corrected. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 30-36 are requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 7-16 and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's alleged admitted art in view of Japanese Patent Abstract Publication 2000-111957, issued to Michiaki et al ("Michiaki"). At the outset, Applicants make no admittance to prior art. Figures 1-7D have been used by Applicants to provide "Related Art" descriptions. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because neither the Related Art nor Michiaki, analyzed alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the features recited in combination in the claims of the present application. In particular, the Related Art and Michiaki fail to teach or suggest an in-plane switching liquid crystal display device and method that include, among other features, "a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer" and "forming a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer", as recited in independent claims 1 and 16, respectively.

The Office Action concedes that the Related Art fails to teach or suggest all of the features recited in the present application. To compensate for the deficient teachings of the Related Art, the Office Action relies upon the teachings in Drawing 1 of Michiaki to provide motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Related Art to obtain a device and method having the combined features recited in independent claims 1 and 16. Applicants disagree.

In Michiaki a light-filter layer 110 and shading section 111 are formed on the protective coat 108. The light-filter layer 110 and shading section 111 are covered with overcoat layer 112. Further, "the common electrode 103 is covered and arranged in the overcoat layer on the shading section 111" (emphasis added, see paragraphs [0021] - [0022] and Drawing 1(a)). Thus, Michiaki fails to teach or suggest a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation

layer as recited by the claims of the present application. As such, even if the Related Art was modified by the teachings of Michiaki, which Applicants do not concede there is proper motivation to do, the combination would fail to provide an in-plane switching liquid crystal display device and method having the combined features recited in claims 1 and 16. Accordingly, claim 1 and its rejected, dependent claims 7-16, and claim 16 and its rejected, dependent claims 24-29 are patentable over the Related Art and Michiaki. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Claims 2-3 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's alleged admitted art, Michiaki and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,356,328, issued to Shin et al. ("Shin"). Claims 4 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's alleged admitted art, Michiaki and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,163,355, issued to Chang et al. ("Chang"). Claims 5-6 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's alleged admitted art, Michiaki and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,414,729, issued to Akiyama et al. ("Akiyama"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of these dependent claims because neither the Related Art, Michiaki, Shin, Chang nor Akiyama, analyzed alone or in any combination, teach or suggest an in-plane switching liquid crystal display device and method having, among other features, "a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer" and "forming a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer", as recited in independent claims 1 and 16, respectively.

Shin discloses an LCD having a counter electrode and pixel electrode capable of minimizing an area on which liquid crystal molecules do not operate. In Shin, a counter electrode comprises a first part formed in the unit cell space, made of transparent material, disposed in a second direction and having a sectional view of a substantial triangle shape. (Col. 2, lines 27-30). However, Shin fails to teach or suggest "a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer", as recited in claim 1 and "forming a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer", as recited in claim 16.

Chang discloses a process for manufacturing an in-plane switching array of a liquid crystal display focused upon reducing light leakage and reducing the resistance on the data line of an IPS LCD. In Chang, the thickness of the comb-shaped electrode is reduced (Col. 2, lines 36-50). However, Chang fails to teach or suggest "a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer", as recited in claim 1 and "forming a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer", as recited in claim 16.

Akiyama discloses a stack-type liquid crystal display device having stacked liquid crystal layers that displays by applying prescribed potential differences to respective stacked pixel layers in a time divisional manner. However, Akiyama fails to teach or suggest "a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer", as recited in claim 1 and "forming a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer", as recited in claim 16.

Since Shin, Chang and Akiyama fail to teach or suggest "a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer" and "forming a plurality of common electrodes on the first passivation layer", these references fail to remedy the deficient teachings of the Related Art and Michiaki, discussed above. As such, Applicants respectfully submit no combination of Shin, Chang and Akiyama, along with the Related Art and Michiaki, would provide an in-plane switching liquid crystal display device and method having the combined features recited in claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-6, and claim 16 and its dependent claims 17-23. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.




Application No.: 09/901,079
Amendment dated September 3, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated June 4, 2003

Docket No.: 8733.464.00-US

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: September 3, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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